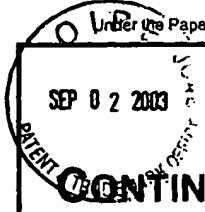


#23/RCE
11-20-03

RCE 2800

PTO/SB/30 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0851-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



**REQUEST
FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,
provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application
filed on or after June 8, 1995.
See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA)

Application Number	09/438,491
Filing Date	November 12, 1999
First Named Inventor	Toshiyuki YOSHIHARA
Group Art Unit	2873
Examiner Name	J. M. Schwartz
Attorney Docket Number	00684.002935

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.
NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. **Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

a. ☒ Previously submitted

i. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on July 30, 2003.
any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).

ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____

iii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☐ Enclosed

i. ☐ Amendment/Reply 09/03/2003 KZENWIE 00000003 09430491

ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) 01 FC:1801 750.00 OP

iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) 02 FC:1251 110.00 OP

iv. ☐ Other _____

2. **Miscellaneous**

a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(l) required)

b. ☒ Other: Applicant petitions the Examiner to extend the time for response for the Final Office Action dated April 30, 2003, one month from July 30, 2003, up to and including Tuesday after holiday, September 2, 2003, and submits \$110.00.

3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205

i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)

ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)

iii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☒ Checks in the amounts of \$750.00 and \$110.00 are enclosed to cover the RCE filing fee and extension of time fee, respectively.

c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED			
Name (Print/Type)	Steven E. Warner	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	33,326
Signature		Date	September 2, 2003 (Tuesday After Holiday)

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.